

**Continuing Education
of
Health Officers
and
Registered Environmental Health
Specialists**

*An Overview of New Jersey's
Regulatory Requirements*

**New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services
Office of Local Health**

Purpose

To build core competencies in the practice of public health management, administration and environmental health;

To build knowledge and skills in the application of core functions and essential public health services; and

To assure a highly skilled workforce which remains current with the practice of public health as a governmental responsibility and a science.

Active and Inactive Licenses

- **Active license =
continuing education
requirement has been fulfilled**
- **Inactive license =
continuing education
requirement NOT fulfilled**

Important !!

To practice public health in New Jersey in accordance with your license, you MUST have an ACTIVE license.

Active License

- **15 contact hours* of continuing education from approved courses**
- **Completed by December 31 of each licensing period**

Note:

*** For Health Officers a minimum of 8 contact hours is required in leadership/management.**

*** Total contact hours for either or both licenses.**

Active License

- **Continuing education may be acquired through:**
 - **attendance at approved courses**
 - **instructor for an approved course**
- **To obtain CE credit, courses must have been pre-approved**
- **Carryover of 5 contact hours to the next year is permitted**

Courses Eligible for Approval

- ***Almost* any public health course, for example: professional ethics, legal aspects, health care, health education, environmental science, health planning, epidemiology, public health administration, environmental health, communicable disease, maternal/child health, chronic disease, evolving policy and techniques, health and wellness, older adult health, health hazard evaluations, risk communication, air, water, pesticides, pest control, soils, food, radiation, noise, chemical and microbiological agents, emergency response, crisis management, disaster control, public health agencies, organizations, practices and professions, etc...**

Leadership/Management

“LE” Credit

- ***Almost* any course in public administration and public health management, for example: leadership, team building, legal aspects of public health practice, health assessment, planning, policy development, evaluation methodologies, public health administration, risk communication, community partnerships, organizing and coalition building, using data/information in decision making and policy development, continuous quality improvement, integration of public health and health care, outcomes measurement, etc...**

Applying for an Active License

- **Return license renewal application**
- **Attach evidence of at least 15 hours**
 - **letter of attendance**
 - **certificates of attendance**

including course name, sponsor, date, #CE and/or LE credits, course number, your name, and a statement that “the course has met Public Health Council approval”

- **List all courses completed on Continuing Education Record Form**

Waiver of Active License

- **May be requested in writing, with documentation, to Public Health Council**
- **May be granted for good cause, e.g., serious illness, accident**
- **All or part of CE requirement may be waived for the current period**
- **Must reapply to renew waiver**

Failure to Complete Education Requirement (No Waiver)

- **Licensee and employer informed in writing**
- **Licensee prohibited from practicing, may be assigned to other duties**
- **Decision may be appealed in 30 days**
- **Administrative hearing before
Board of Licensing and Examinations**

Other Current Initiatives

- **Statewide Distance Learning Network**
- **Development of a new Health Officer Licensing Examination**
- **Upgrade of the licensing examination for Registered Environmental Health Specialist**
- **Building requirements for core competencies into new public health practice standards (Min. Standards)**